

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
EURE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 IO-13 /073 W  
-----241705Z 079337 /43

P 241500Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0005  
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1781

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, YO, US  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 60945

1. STARCEVIC CALLED IN CHARGE TODAY (MARCH 24) TO REGISTER PROTEST OVER ISSUANCE OF REPORT ON STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA (REFTEL). HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE HIS POINTS IN VERY SHARP TERMS, BUT HAD DELIBERATELY SOFTENED HIS LANGUAGE.

2. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) GOY WAS CONCERNED OVER ISSUANCE OF REPORT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS CONTENT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE VERY CONCEPT OF THE USG JUDGING STATE OF FREEDOM IN SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA. GOY PUZZLED AS TO WHAT LAY BEHIND REPORT WHICH "NO ONE NEEDS."

(B) GOY HAD A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE OVER USSR'S PRACTICE OF JUDGING WHAT IS AND IS NOT SOCIALISM IN THE WORLD; US ISSUANCE OF REPORT UNPLEASANTLY REMINISCENT OF SOVIET ACTIONS SINCE WE SEEMINGLY HAVE SET OURSELVES UP AS JUDGE OF WHAT IS AND IS NOT FREEDOM IN WORLD.

(C) OUR RELATIONS IN MILITARY FIELD OVER PAST SEVERAL  
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YEARS HAD NOT GONE SMOOTHLY; REPORT, WHEN ITS CONTENT AND RELATIONSHIP TO MILITARY SALES EXPLAINED TO YUGOSLAV MILITARY, WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS FIELD.

3. CHARGE REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF LEGISLATION THAT MANDATED REPORT, STRESSING THAT YUGOSLAVIA ONE OF

82 COUNTRIES ON WHOM REPORTS PREPARED. LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS DIRECTED AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA PER SE. INSTEAD IT REFLECTION OF SENSITIVITY AND CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IS MANIFEST IN USG AS A WHOLE AND AMONG AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE REPORT ITSELF IS LOW KEY AND FACTUAL, AND IT AVOIDS ANY DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL CASES, WITH ONE SINGLE EXCEPTION. TIMING OF ITS RELEASE FORTUITOUS; IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE READ AS SIGNAL FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION ON ANYTHING EXCEPT ITS REAL AND CONTINUED CONCERN OVER BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. CHARGE PROMISED TO CONVEY STARCEVIC'S POINTS TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: WE ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT APPROACH MADE AT STARCEVIC LEVEL AND WAS MODERATE IN TONE (DESPITE STARCEVIC'S ASSERTION THAT THIS HIS PERSONAL INTITATIVE). WE BELIEVE THAT FSFA HAS NO REAL WISH PURSUE MATTER TO POINT WHERE IT MIGHT STRAIN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, REACTION OF YUGOSLAV MILITARY STILL UNCERTAIN AND WE ARE NOT YET OUT OF WOODS. YORK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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